



*"Abundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and countless other artifacts provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record that is important to us all, but most notably the land [of Bears Ears] is profoundly sacred to many Native American tribes."*

Proclamation 9558—Establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument

# Bears Ears National Monument

June 2018

## ABOUT THE BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

- Located in San Juan County of southeastern Utah, the monument is managed jointly by the Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- The originally 1,351,849-acre monument was designated in 2016 by President Obama.
- In 2017, President Trump drastically cut the size of Bears Ears by 85%, leaving a large swath of previously protected federal land open to oil, gas and mining extraction. The two monuments created in its place, Indian Creek and Shash Jaa, are now only 201,876 acres combined.

## CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

- Bears Ears received its name from the twin peaks that look like the ears of a bear, and is called Bears Ears in the native languages of the region.
- Several Native American tribes – the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Ute – all have ancestral ties to the region of Bears Ears.
- About 100,000 archeological and cultural sites, such as House on Fire and Moon House ruins, were protected by the original monument and are considered sacred to many tribes.
- The majority of the cultural sites and items in the original Bears Ears boundary have been found to be at least 700 years old, but some date as far back as 12,000 B.C.E.

## PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE OF BEARS EARS

- Recreation opportunities include rock climbing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing.
- As is typical for many monuments, tribal access for traditional plant and firewood gathering and ceremonial purposes, off-highway recreation on existing routes, grazing, hunting, fishing, and water and utility infrastructure are authorized inside the monument boundaries.

***"The President has come to Utah to rob Americans of their natural inheritances, public lands, and to perpetuate injustice against the First Nations of the Southwest."***

Utah Democratic Party Chairman Daisy Thomas

### LOCAL SUPPORT & OUTDOOR ECONOMY

**66%** of people in eight western states view the decision to reduce the size of Bears Ears as a bad idea (*Conservation in the West, 2018*).

In Utah, the outdoor recreation economy supports **110,000** jobs & contributes **\$737M** in state and local tax revenue (*Outdoor Industry Association, 2018*).

In only **15** days, **685,000** public comments were submitted in support of Bears Ears (*National Parks Conservation Association et al., 2018*).

### Protect Our National Monuments!

President Trump and Republicans in Congress want to take public lands away from everyday Americans and hand them over to oil, gas and mining companies. In April 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order directing the Department of the Interior to review the establishment history and current status of 27 national monuments created since 1996 under the Antiquities Act, a law Congress passed more than a century ago that authorizes the president to designate national monuments on existing federal land. In August 2017, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended shrinking or modifying at least ten national monuments. On December 4, 2017, Trump drastically shrank two of Utah's National Monuments - Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante - through a presidential order with no legal basis.